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RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1957



URBAN DISTRICT AUTHORITY OF RUNCORN

ANNUAL REPORT

1957

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Officials of the Public Health Department :

- (1) *Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts*
- (2) *Divisional Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer (Runcorn Division)*

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspectors:

★*Chief:* Mr. ALLEN DALE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Foods.

★*Additional:* Mr. ALBERT DUCKWORTH, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Foods. Smoke Inspectors Cert., R.S.H.

Additional: Mr. W. P. MOSS, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Foods.

(★ *Also appointed Shops Inspector.*)

Members of the Urban District Council of Runcorn

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR Geo WRIGHT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR S. HOLT

COUNTY ALDERMAN W. GITTINS, J.P.

COUNCILLOR T. CLARE

- „ A. COOPER, J.P.
- „ C. L. COHEN
- , H. GOODALL (Chairman of the Public Health Committee)
- , C. J. HELSBY
- „ J. HENDERSON
- „ J. S. HEWITSON
- „ Miss D. HORSEFIELD
- „ E. G. JONES
- „ T. H. LEATHER
- „ T. J. LLOYD
- „ D. McCULLOCH, D.C.M.
- „ C. C. POSNETT
- „ J. G. POTTS
- „ Miss M. J. PREECE, B.A. C.C.
- „ H. SHACKLADY
- „ T. B. SHALLCROSS
- „ J. TILDSLEY, J.P.

Officers:

Solicitor-Clerk of the Council: Mr. T. J. LEWIS

Engineer and Surveyor: Mr. H. A. HUMPHERY, M.I.Mun.E.

Treasurer: Mr. C. NORMAN GREEN

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INTRODUCTION

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you this my 20th Annual report for the year-ending 31st December, 1957.

Population: There is an increase of 200 in the Registrar-General's estimate of the total population from 25,460 in 1956 to 25,660 in 1957.

Birth Rate: The Birth Rate per thousand of the population showed a slight decrease being 17.8 in 1957 by comparison with 18.2 in 1956.

Death Rate: The Death Rate for 1957 was 9.19 per thousand of the population compared with 11.1 in 1956. The total number of deaths in the Runcorn Urban District in 1957 was 236 compared with 285 in 1956. Your special attention is drawn to the detailed table on page 36 which gives the deaths from various diseases (e.g. Coronary thrombosis, etc), shown in age groups and sex.

Infantile Mortality Rate: The Death Rate of all Infants under one year of age per thousand of live births was 21.78 (10 deaths) in 1957, as compared with 36.6 (17 deaths) in 1956 (See page 14).

Incidence of Infectious Disease: The incidence of infectious disease was less than the previous year; 258 cases were notified, as compared with 461 during 1956.

Tuberculosis: Though the rate for Pulmonary Tuberculosis remains relatively high, the remarkable reduction in Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (1938—89); 1957—19; is to be noted with satisfaction. Clean and pure heat-treated milk are especially the cause of this. The fight against Pulmonary Tuberculosis continues *vide* my remarks in this report on the subject; in addition the full application of the New Clean Air Act, aided by the various sections of the Public Health Act.

“THE COMMONSENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE”

Immediately following this Introduction are my “Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease,” which I strongly recommend should be read and carried out by all concerned.

Housing: The number of applications for Council houses was 709 at the end of the year under review.

The number of houses owned by the Council at end of year was 2089; total number of new houses erected by the Council during the year was 152 (plus 60 houses acquired by Cheshire County Council, Penn Lane Estate)—212. The total number of inhabited houses as at 31st December, 1957 was 8,318.

My Council are paying special attention to the removal as priority cases expectant mothers and families with young children from slum property; this is one way we will still further be able to reduce the infantile mortality rate (N.B. Ante-Natal Care, etc.). Slum Clearance Schemes (5 and 10 years programmes) are being dealt with as a priority. My Council are to be congratulated on their rehousing programme especially since the last war.

Ventilation and Heating of Houses, etc. From time to time I have stressed the need for a more commonsense approach to this matter in this country (*vide* local press, etc.)

“The question of ventilation and heating in the British Isles requires urgent investigation in that sometimes through sheer lack of thought, draughty, cold houses are experienced (and so “colds,” etc), when with the use of some commonsense proper ventilation and heating would be available—and so better health.

(N.B.) *Ventilation:* This means movement of air without draughts; windows and doors should be made draught-proof and a simple and proper system of *controlled ventilation* arranged; for this ask an expert, e.g., a ventilation/heating engineer, your local surveyor or Public Health Inspector.

Heating: This must be adequate, not too much or insufficient, many rooms and corridors, especially in large houses require a *minimum of central heating*, e.g., a hot pipe running through them; this may be added to by ordinary coal fires (preferably smokeless), electric or gas fires in certain rooms; again ask experts as suggested under ventilation above. *Do not forget the bathroom.*

General: Much ill-health can be prevented if more *commonsense* was used in these important matters. A room thermometer is useful in seeing these are kept at the right *temperature and humidity*. If in doubt ask an expert as suggested above; the cost will *not* be much, balancing this *better health will be the result* for ourselves and visitors from overseas.

N.B.: The policy of placing heating at nearly roof level is wrong and may cause various diseases (e.g., head and shoulders hot—feet cold). The appropriate Ministry, &c., should enquire into this important matter again.

Flies: As stated in my Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease:—

(a) **FLIES:** Any dirt, faeces, manure, etc., **in which flies breed** must be disposed of quickly and thoroughly (burying and **well covering** these with earth is one of the best ways). Flies should be destroyed by, e.g., fly sprays, fly swats, fly papers, etc., and food larders, pail closets, and bins **must** be fly proof. Food **must** be protected from dust, dirt, flies, rats and mice, and kept in a cool well ventilated place. Disinfectant solution **must** be used to **cover** contents in pail closets.

WHY? Flies **carry** disease germs (in and on their bodies) from all kinds of dirt to food, and so spread diseases.

We are not sufficiently “*FLY CONSCIOUS*”—every effort *must* be made to cure this and so help to prevent many intestinal diseases including Poliomyelitis, Enteritis, Typhoid and Food Poisoning.

Cleanliness of HANDS AND NAILS: My remarks above about *Flies* should be read in conjunction with this in my Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease . . . it is stated:—

CLEANLINESS. (a) This **must** be thorough in or around the house, kitchen, shop, larder, etc. (This **also** applies to feeding bottles and teats.) **WHY?** Where these are **absolutely** clean there are few, if any, disease germs. Feeding bottles and teats **must** be thoroughly washed and boiled prior to use. If in doubt ask your Public Health Department, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

(b) This also applies to those who handle and cook food, especially the hands and nails.

WHY? Dirt (with disease germs) may be on the hands or **under the nails** and so spread disease germs to food; **always** thoroughly wash the hands **and clean under the nails** after using the lavatory.

We must *NOT* be prudish about this, for the facts are the germs of Poliomyelitis, Typhoid, &c., may be in the bowels and when we use the lavatory, our hands and nails may become infected—so it is *essential* to *thoroughly* wash and clean these after using the lavatory—as mentioned above under “*FLIES*”; if this was drilled into schoolchildren (at school and at home) and all other diseases, as mentioned under *Flies* above (with the aid of protective immunisation) would be eventually wiped out (using also vaccination, &c., against various diseases).

Disease Spread from Animals to Humans: It is good to note that Medical and Veterinary Research workers, &c., are co-operating more and more in this important matter. Tropical Diseases have been cut to a minimum all over the world by this method of spread of disease being recognised and dealt with.

Vaccination and Immunisation: It is understood that in the near future one vaccine may be available (for babies—then a booster dose later) to include in this prevention against Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and possibly Measles—this will be an efficient way which will prevent the many injections to children as given today.

Allergic Diseases: As quoted in my Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease—in a large percentage of cases can be cured—the diseases for example, Migraine, Hayfever, Asthma, some types of Eczema (especially in children) due to allergy, cause much unnecessary suffering; by seeing a Doctor (tests, &c.) many of these can be cured or relieved; this also applies to contact “Dermatitis”.

Finally may I quote a summary of a lecture (also gramophone and tape recorded) on “Health and the Joy of Life”:

1. Develop proper contacts every day so that they will “switch on” and give you the right knowledge and stimulus to live; so developing your mental, physical and spiritual life together. At all ages develop the “Outward Bound” spirit.

2. Look after the three “T’s”—Tonsils, Teeth and Tummy. See your Doctor and Dentist when you need to, but whether fit or not be examined by your Doctor at least once a year and your Dentist every six months.

3. Eat proper food daily, a varied diet cooked properly, and include in it the preventive foods—those which prevent disease—Milk, Eggs, Fresh Vegetables (both cooked and in salads), Fruit, Animal Fat and Fish, especially Herrings. Do not forget the importance of flavour in your cooking, use e.g., onions, leeks and all the herbs.

4. If in doubt as to the purity of water, or if milk is not pasteurised, boil them.

5. Be clean—use soap and more “*elbow grease*”.

6. If you want to know of any contact, that is, to commence any organisations in your district, write to your Medical Officer of Health.

7. Study the books on Hygiene by the Red Cross and St. John Societies. Listen to the Radio Doctor and study *his* books.

8. *Finally, with the team spirit fully developed in you, work hard, play hard and learn to relax.* You will then have gained something towards enjoying “*Health and the Joy of Life*”.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA:

The details under this Section have been compiled by Mr Allen Dale, M.R.S.H., Chief Public Health Inspector, who, with the great regret of all, retires in 1958, after many years of Loyal and conscientious Service.

ANNUAL REPORT—DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year-ending 31st December, 1957

(by agreement with the Cheshire County Council and my local Council)—this report is included as an Appendix “A” and attached hereto.

Over a period of 20 years the co-operation and help of *all* concerned outside my offices, in the Public Health Department and other Departments has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties. I wish all the best of luck, happiness and good health now and in the future.

Yours obediently,

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY,

L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Brunswick Hall,
Brunswick Street,
Runcorn.

IMPORTANT

THE COMMON SENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE

- (1) **CLEANLINESS.** (a) This **must** be thorough in or around the house, kitchen, shop, larder, etc. (This also applies to feeding bottles and teats.)

WHY? Where these are **absolutely** clean there are few, if any, disease germs. Feeding bottles and teats **must** be thoroughly washed and boiled prior to use. If in doubt ask your Public Health Department, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

(b) This also applies to those who handle and cook food, especially the hands and nails.

WHY? Dirt (with disease germs) may be on the hands or **under the nails** and so spread disease germs to food; **always** thoroughly wash the hands and **clean under the nails** after using the lavatory.

- (2) **DESTRUCTION OF FLIES, RATS AND MICE.**

(a) **FLIES:** Any dirt, faeces, manure, etc., **in which flies breed** must be disposed of quickly and thoroughly (burying and **well covering** these with earth is one of the best ways). Flies should be destroyed by, e.g., fly sprays, fly swats, fly papers, etc., and food larders, pail closets, and bins **must** be fly proof. Food **must** be protected from dust, dirt, flies, rats and mice, and kept in a cool well ventilated place. Disinfectant solution **must** be used to **cover** contents in pail closets.

WHY? Flies **carry** disease germs (in and on their bodies) from all kinds of dirt to food, and so spread diseases.

(b) **RATS AND MICE:** For the destruction of these ask your chemist; failing this your Public Health Inspector (who is also the Rodent Officer).

WHY? Rats and mice breed in all kinds of dirt, and like flies carry disease germs to food (and water).

- (3) **FOOD** should be **properly** heat treated; this applies especially to the manufacture of ice cream, the cooking of shell-fish, and the pasteurisation and sterilization of milk. Where milk is not pasteurised or sterilized I recommend that this is boiled at home.

WHY? By proper heat treatment, any disease germs present are destroyed. This applies to all kinds of food, including ice cream, shell-fish and milk.

- (4) **WATERCRESS** must be obtained from properly controlled beds, that is, where pure water is supplied; **this with lettuce and fruits** without a fairly thick outside coat, should be thoroughly washed in a weak Condy's solution and then rinsed with pure water before being eaten.

WHY? Watercress can carry disease germs on it; this also applies to lettuce and fruit.

- (5) **DRIED EGGS AND DRIED MILK** must be kept in a cool place, and when the package is opened it should be used up quickly.

WHY? These are good foods, but if the containers are left open to the air too long (e.g., over two days) germs can grow in them and so spread disease.

- (6) **ALL WATER FOR DRINKING, DIETETIC OR DAIRY PURPOSES** should be from a pure supply; if in doubt as to its purity, boil it well for small quantities, or chlorinate it for large quantities—see instructions on bottles obtainable from most chemists. **Do not bathe in rivers**, etc., which may be sewage polluted.

WHY? Water, if impure, can have disease germs in it; boiling or chlorination kills disease germs. If you bathe in rivers, canals, etc., which may be sewage polluted, you may swallow disease germs.

- (7) **CONSTIPATION.** This *must* be avoided, for example, by eating sufficient roughage food, e.g., whole-meal bread and vegetables also by keeping the stomach muscles strong and healthy by games and P.T. exercises. If in doubt see your own doctor. Many diseases might be traced to chronic constipation.

WHY? If constipated, foul matter remains too long in the lower bowel so poisoning the blood and also holding disease germs in the bowel which may infect the body.

- (8) (a) **TO AVOID SPREADING “COLDS IN THE HEAD”, INFLUENZA**, etc. Use a handkerchief when you cough or sneeze.

WHY? A handkerchief acts as a screen and so catches disease germs from the nose and throat. Disinfect and boil handkerchiefs well prior to washing. Wet feet, wet clothes, and draughts cause chilling of the body and so render it more liable to disease.

(b) **COVERING UP THE MOUTH WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING.** Coughing or sneezing on *food*, for example, after influenza, etc., may cause a serious attack of e.g., enteritis, diarrhoea, etc., especially in babies and young children.

WHY? Because germs causing *serious* disease enter on or into food . . . **DO NOT COUGH OR SNEEZE** onto food: cover the mouth and nose with a handkerchief or etc., See your own doctor as required for treatment.

- (9) **ALLERGIC DISEASES.** The diseases for example, Migraine, Hayfever, Asthma, some types of Eczema (especially in children) due to allergy, cause much *unnecessary* suffering; by seeing a Doctor (tests, etc.) many of these can be cured or relieved; this also applies to contact “Dermatitis”.

- (10) **PROTECTIVE INJECTIONS AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, SMALL-POX**, etc. See that all (especially young children) have these as required.

WHY? By these injections the body is more fully protected against dangerous diseases. If in doubt ask your own doctor, Medical Officer of Health, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

- (11) **PROPER DISINFECTION OF HOUSES**, etc. After any serious disease in a house, etc., see that this is carried out (ask your Public Health Department, Public Health Inspector), **also a thorough “spring-cleaning”**. The latter would be sufficient in less serious diseases such as Influenza Measles and Whooping Cough.

WHY? By this, disease germs are destroyed or washed away and so cannot infect others.

- (12) **ISOLATION OF CONTACTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE**. Carry out thoroughly what is recommended on the special pamphlet issued by the Medical Officer of Health when patients are sent to hospital or nursed at home.

WHY? By so doing disease germs are less likely to spread. If in doubt ask your own doctor or Public Health Department (e.g., your Public Health Inspector). This also applies to any sick animals (indoors or outdoors); in doubt call in a Veterinary Officer.

- (13) **DEFECTIVE TEETH**. See your dentist if your teeth are bad or septic; better still see him as a routine every six months.

WHY? If your teeth are bad or septic the chewing powers are not good and so all kinds of indigestion may arise. Septic teeth (and gums) lead to poisoning of the blood and so to various diseases.

- (14) **THE PREVENTIVE FOODS**. Eat some of these daily in your daily diet which **must** be properly cooked, varied **and** flavoured.

WHY? The preventive foods (i.e., those which help the body to prevent disease) are:—

- Milk and eggs (dried or ordinary);
- Cheese;
- Fresh vegetables and fruit (cooked or in salads);
- Animal fats, e.g., fish (especially herrings), and butter;
- Margarine (vitaminised);
- Whole meal bread;

These all contain valuable substances called **VITAMINS** which are *essential* to good health. Where these essential foods are in short supply, etc., all concerned are reminded that extracts of these vitamins are contained in e.g., Rose Hip Juice and/or Ribena, Marmite, Yeast, certain tablets (all vitamins). *Parents are recommended to bottle or preserve fruit when it is cheap.*

- (15) **OBESITY** (over-weight): How can this be the cause of many serious diseases and can shorten life . . . ?

WHY? By “clogging-up” of the blood vessels, the various organs of the body, disease can commence. By eating less fat and starchy foods at each meal, with more variety and taking, for example, small quantities of milk or sweets between meals, less fat, etc., will enter the body. Moderate, regular daily exercise, e.g., a walk, will help to “burn-up” fat. Guard against constipation. If in doubt see your own doctor.

- (16) RETIREMENT, Semi-RETIREMENT and OLD AGE: (also secondary employment in youth).

Question: What should one do to prepare for these (the proper use of leisure)?

Answer: As early as possible, and as necessary, seek the guidance first of, for example, your Medical Officer of Health, and/or Health Visitor, who will (acting in a "guidance service") refer you to other agencies—official and voluntary.

Remember *Old Age* is a *normal state*, but the diseases associated with it are not; see your own doctor as required, so that not only years can be added to life, but life can be added to years.

Loneliness, boredom and monotony *must* be dealt with by using the brain and body—for example, with hobbies of all kinds, other employment, etc. . . . See your own padre as required.

EVERYDAY is a BIRTHDAY and EVERYDAY we are born anew. Younger persons working a 4 to 5 day week should in the same way as above, prepare for a new world of *secondary employment* (owing to for example, automation, the atomic age)—for this see your Ministry of Labour—Youth Employment Department, or, as above, your Medical Officer of Health and/or the Health Visitor. Ask your local Education Office, for under the Education Act, 1944, any subject (theory or practice) can be taught to *any* person at a very small cost to the person per week. Finally—EARN HAPPINESS BY GIVING.

GENERAL

- (1) Anyone feeling ill should see their own doctor (better still, as a routine, see him once a year)—though with the above common-sense precautions there should be little danger of contacting or spreading disease.
- (2) ASK FOR MORE OF THESE PAMPHLETS AS REQUIRED FROM YOUR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Have discussion groups, lectures and films on health education. Attend the official classes on personal hygiene given by, e.g., the Red Cross Society, St. John Association, Scouts and Girl Guides—these organisations have excellent little books on the subject. Always carry out these common-sense preventive measures and *tell others about them*.
- (3) Good health mostly depends on YOU—your co-operation is essential.

“WHERE THERE IS DIRT THERE IS DISEASE”

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P.&S., L.M., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.
Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban & Rural Districts
Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:

1. Brunswick Hall, Brunswick Street, Runcorn.
2. Castle Park, Frodsham.

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area of Runcorn Urban District in Acres	....	....	3,116
Population at Census, 1951	....	....	23,933
Registrar- General's Estimates of population at June 30th	....	....	25,660
Density of population (i.e. No. of persons per acre)	....	....	8.2
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1957, according to rate book	....	....	8,318
Rateable value, at 31st December, 1956	....	....	£286,404
Rateable value, at 31st December, 1957	....	....	£284,380
Sum represented by 1d. rate (approx.) 31st December, 1957	....	....	£1,150

Vital Statistics

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births:	Legitimate	447	244	203
	Illegitimate	12	6	6

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 17.8

Still Births:	Legitimate	10	7	3
	Illegitimate	1	1	—

Rate of Still Births per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births): 23.4

Deaths	236	134	102
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

(Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):

No. 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion....	Nil
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DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

All Infants per 1,000 live births (10 deaths): Death Rate	21.78
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	....	....	22.36
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	....	....	nil
Death Rate per 1,000 Population (236 Deaths)	....	....	9.19
Infantile Mortality Rate (10 Deaths)	....	....	21.78
Deaths from Pneumonia per 1,000 population (10 Deaths)	....	....	0.38
Deaths from Cancer per 1,000 population (43 Deaths)	....	....	1.67
Deaths from Measles—all ages—(1 Death)	....	....	0.03
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	....	....	nil

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment:

The causes of the highest mortality were:

Heart Disease	....	....	....	83
Cancer	....	....	....	43

Heart Disease was prevalent in persons over 65 years of age, some cases may have been due to the effects of e.g. Rheumatism in childhood—this is being further investigated under the auspices of the Ministry of Health (lack of vitamin C, improper diet, gland deficiency, etc.)

For further remarks on Cancer see page 32 (i.e. further research, early treatment, etc.)

Vital Statistics, 1947-1957

<i>Year</i>	<i>Per 1,000 Population</i>		<i>Per 1,000 Live Births</i>	<i>Per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births</i>
	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Live Birth</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate</i>	<i>Still Birth Rate</i>
1947	12.11	25.5	48.5	21.3
1948	9.74	20.53	20.96	20.53
1949	11.23	17.29	51.09	26.06
1950	10.79	10.5	23.3	29.6
1951	13.34	16.07	31.25	27.85
1952	11.29	15.79	39.57	23.19
1953	9.07	17.57	21.02	20.59
1954	10.29	16.83	37.47	27.97
1955	9.74	17.6	45.3	13.4
1956	11.1	18.2	36.6	25.3
1957	9.19	17.8	21.78	23.4

Principal Causes of Death in Order of Frequency

Out of 236 deaths occurring during the year 218 were attributable to the undermentioned principal causes:—

						<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Percentage of deaths from all causes</i>
1	Heart Disease ....	....	....	....	....	83	35.1
2	Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...					35	14.8
3	Cancer ....	....	....	....	....	43	18.2
4	Bronchitis ....	....	....	....	....	17	7.2
5	Other defined and ill-defined causes....					20	8.4
6	Pneumonia ....	....	....	....	....	10	4.2
7	Other Circulatory Diseases ....	....	....	....	....	10	4.2

Infants Deaths (Under 1 year), 1957

Certified Causes of Death	Age at Death									Total
	Under 24 hours	Days				Months				
		1– 7	8– 14	15– 21	22– 28	1– 3	3– 6	6– 9	9– 12	
Birth injuries:										
Asphyxia	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Infections	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Prematurity	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Pneumonia	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	3
Congenital										
Malformations	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Gastroenteritis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Influenza	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Acute Bronchitis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Respiratory failure	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
TOTALS	2	4	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	10

Infant Mortality

The table of infant deaths shows that 10 children died before reaching the age of 1 year, producing an infant mortality rate of 21.78 compared with 36.6 in the previous year.

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area

1. Public Health Officers

The names, qualifications, of these are given at the beginning of the Report.

2. Facilities

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies, Ltd., is established in Runcorn—where, query Anthrax can be examined and necessary treatment given as required prior to any Hospital treatment.

The Chester and District Hospital Management Committee have informed all general practitioners that they would be responsible for the supply of diphtheria antitoxin (free)—in emergency at the Runcorn Memorial Hospital (Matron). In addition, it can be obtained (in emergency) from any infectious disease hospital, e.g., Warrington and Davenham.

Practitioners may, if they wish, obtain a small stock from a hospital in anticipation of requirements rather than wait until they need it for a particular case.

Stock held by hospitals or practitioners should be returned three months before expiry date for exchange to the source of supply.

In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in diphtheria.

N.B.—Antitoxin should be given in all suspicious cases at once, in the home or in the hospital. SWABBING IS ONLY AN AID TO DIAGNOSIS.

Swabs &c., are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, 42 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead and the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, in addition as required, the laboratories at Chester and Warrington (free of charge).

N.B.—This applies to all examinations carried out in the interests of Public Health. The facilities available (free of charge) might be made more use of.

Milk specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead; they may be sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

N.B.—The Public Health Laboratory, Manchester and Birkenhead, also the laboratories at the Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmarys, are available to examine and report on specimen swabs, etc., in the interests of preventive medicine.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances

1. (i) WATER. The water supply consists of a mixture of soft water from Lake Vyrnwy and hard Runcorn Well water.

Frequent tests are made of the water by the Council, and during the year 9 tests of Vyrnwy and 5 of mixed water were made, and 28 tests of Well water (which is under constant supervision).

The Report of the Analyst is : “That the water generally is free from organic pollution and is suitable for drinking purposes.”

(ii) Ministry of Health Circular 42/51 requires the following information regarding water supplies in the area:—

- (i) Whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory :—
 - (a) In quality Yes
 - (b) In quantity Yes
- (ii) Where there is a piped supply whether bacteriological examinations were made of (i) the raw water and (ii) where treatment is installed, of water going into supply ; if so
 - (a) How many ?.... Yes (i) 28 ; (ii) 14
 - (b) The results obtained. Number of coliform organisms per 100 mls. Satisfactory
 - (c) The results of any chemical analysis Satisfactory

- (iii) Where the waters are liable to have plumbo solvent action the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and number and result of analyses :—

Report of Analyst does not indicate plumbo solvent action in any of the testings made.

- (iv) Action in respect of any form of contamination :—
None.

- (v) Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains :—

(a) Direct to the houses	....	....	8,318
(b) By means of stand pipes	....	....	Nil

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE: Most of the sewers empty into one large intercepting sewer which passes under the Manchester Ship Canal at No Man's Land, and another sewer dips under the Ship Canal at the westerly boundary of the District and is discharged similarly into the Mersey estuary.

N.B. Action to improve disposal, disposal works, etc., has been under consideration for some years, suitable action is required at an early date.

(3) PUBLIC CLEANSING: The collection of house refuse is carried out by the Local Authority over the whole of the district and disposal is by controlled tipping in a disused quarry. The refuse is tipped in layers and covered each day with soil available on the site; a mechanical shovel is used for the purpose.

In order to prevent nuisance from insects, the refuse tip is sprayed from time to time with a reliable insecticide.

(4) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Inspections made for all purposes	....	4,365
Nuisances dealt with	....	323
Notices served (Informal)	....	191

Summary of Visits and Inspections

FOOD PREMISES:					
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	37
Cafes, Canteens, Restaurants	....	....	....	....	31
Dairies and Milk Shops	....	....	....	....	32
Food Shops	....	....	....	....	240
Hawkers	....	....	....	....	4
Ice-Cream premises	....	....	....	....	12
Public Market	....	....	....	....	10
Public Slaughterhouse	....	....	....	....	388
School Canteens	....	....	....	....	40
FACTORIES:					
Factories and Workplaces	....	....	....	....	70
Offices	....	....	....	....	3
HOUSING:					
Canal Boats	....	....	....	....	67
Common Lodging House	....	....	....	....	20
Complaints	....	....	....	....	411
House Inspections & Enquiries	....	....	....	....	610
Infectious Disease Enquiries	....	....	....	....	54
Miscellaneous Visits	....	....	....	....	218
Nuisance Abatement	....	....	....	....	610
Owners/Agents Interviewed	....	....	....	....	197
HYGIENE:					
Hairdressers	....	....	....	....	16
Licensed Premises	....	....	....	....	31
Music Hall and Theatres	....	....	....	....	14
Shops (other than food)	....	....	....	....	15
SANITATION:					
Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke					
Abatement	....	....	....	....	118
Disinfections	....	....	....	....	10
Drainage	....	....	....	....	146
Marine Merchants	....	....	....	....	2
Manure Middens	....	....	....	....	17
Piggeries	....	....	....	....	22
Public Baths	....	....	....	....	5
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	60
Refuse Removal and Disposal	....	....	....	....	227
Rodent Control	....	....	....	....	134
Salvage Collection	....	....	....	....	166
School Conveniences	....	....	....	....	14
Tents, Vans, &c.	....	....	....	....	24
Wasteland	....	....	....	....	9
SAMPLING:					
Water (Domestic & Bacteriological)	....	....	....	....	42
Water Baths "chemical"	....	....	....	....	28
Milk	....	....	....	....	128
Ice-cream and lollies	....	....	....	....	47
Atmospheric Pollution	....	....	....	....	36
TOTAL					4365

(5) **Shops**

The various classes of shops in the district of the Local Authority have from time to time been visited.

The provision of the Shops Act relating to closing hours and the Employment of Young Persons are generally observed, also the provisions of the Act in relation to lighting, heating and ventilation.

(6) **Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement**

For the purpose of recording solid matter and sulphur present in the atmosphere, three stations are in operation consisting of deposit gauges and lead peroxide apparatus. The latter gauges and apparatus are situated at:—

Beacon Hill Reservoir

Weston Church

Runcorn Golf Course

Highfield Tannery

N.B.—The station originally placed at Runcorn Golf Course was removed on 1st May, 1957, to Weston Church.

The residue is collected on the 1st of the month or as near as possible for analytical examination.

Measurements of Deposited Matter with the Deposit Gauge

The amount of total solids in tons per square mile, and the average rainfall during the year 1957 was as stated below:—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Beacon Hill Reservoir</i>	<i>Runcorn Golf Course</i>	<i>Weston Church</i>	<i>Highfield Tannery</i>	<i>Average Rainfall inches</i>
January	32.05	15.14	—	15.84	1.34
February....	19.79	18.42	—	15.91	1.66
March	11.29	17.06	—	12.97	2.24
April	13.53	11.47	—	10.17	.48
May	11.05	—	37.69	9.02	1.42
June	No Sample	—	43.40	14.10	1.40
July	22.69	—	71.00	24.30	3.17
August	11.62	—	107.19	20.06	2.68
September	23.88	—	97.57	22.10	5.71
October	23.93	—	55.71	18.56	2.80
November	11.36	—	18.70	7.41	1.19
December	25.01	—	166.71	19.39	1.96
Monthly average	18.74	15.52	74.74	15.82	2.17

Annual Rainfall: 26.15 inches

Measurement of Sulphur Dioxide with the Lead Peroxide Apparatus

The measurement in milligrams of SO₃ per day per 100 square

centimetres of lead peroxide during the year 1957 was as follows:—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Beacon Hill Reservoir</i>	<i>Runcorn Golf Course</i>	<i>Weston Church</i>	<i>Highfield Tannery</i>
January	2.60	2.35	—	2.43
February	2.81	1.34	—	2.88
March	2.34	1.26	—	2.60
April	2.50	1.43	—	1.80
May	2.21	—	2.56	2.58
June	2.03	—	2.01	1.92
July	2.33	—	2.75	2.42
August	1.64	—	2.04	2.02
September	2.50	—	2.72	2.86
October	2.60	—	2.28	2.57
November	2.91	—	2.76	2.88
December	2.48	—	2.56	2.55
Monthly Average	2.41	1.59	2.46	2.46

Industrial Deposits

Considerable discomfort has been caused to the general public by the emission of deposits in the atmosphere which has caused and still causes grave anxiety to the Council. Efforts have been made and representations put forward with the object of alleviating the discomfort and abating a nuisance. The Alkali Inspector too has investigated and on the instructions of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government reported on the matters. Certain works now in progress should go a long way towards the complete eradication of the cause, and the nuisance should be abated in the not too distant future.

(7) Swimming Baths

The Urban District Council maintains a Swimming Bath which is supplied with water from the Town's mains and passed through a filtration plant charged with chlorine. It is tested for its purity and chlorine content at least twice a month during the season, and its physical characteristics are satisfactory. Daily checks are made for chlorine content by the Bath's Superintendent.

Twenty-eight samples of Bath's water were tested and the Analyst reported on the fluctuations of the composition of the water at various times, e.g., when the load was heavier and the temperature consequently higher. Attention was immediately given to any adverse report and the process of chlorination adjusted as required.

(8) Eradication of Vermin

The following particulars are given of action taken for the eradiction of vermin:—

		<i>Infested and Disinfested</i>			Total
		Bed Bugs	Cock-roaches	Ants	
1.	(a) No. of Council Houses	2	2	—	4
	(b) No. of other Houses	6	4	2	12

(9) Schools

Periodic inspections are made of the sanitary accommodation at schools and for this purpose 14 visits were made during 1957. Whilst certain improvements have been made, others are necessary and are receiving consideration by School Management Committees. The County Medical Officer of Health has reported on Schools to the Chief Education Officer.

The serving of school meals necessitates the provision of Canteen accommodation; the latter have been kept under observation on hygienic grounds and at the request of the County Director of Education, smoke fumigation has been carried out at each school on three occasions during the year and for this purpose 40 visits were made.

(10) Rodent Control

During the year the administration of the “Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949” has led to many visits and treatments of dwellings and business premises being carried out. The number of premises inspected was 286.

Treatment of infestation at private dwellings is carried out free of charge but a charge is made for rodent control work in connection with trade premises and land.

During the year 1957 disinfestations were dealt with at 176 premises; 1,003 visits in all were made; 706 rats and 400 mice were accounted for.

The disinfestations dealt with consisted of: Business premises 81; Private Dwellings 68; Council Premises 27.

Sewer treatment was carried out in the months of March, July and October with satisfactory results.

A 10% test of all sewers, and a testing of all manholes which are known to be subject to rodent infestation are given special attention.

(11) FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<i>Premises (1)</i>	<i>M/c line No. (2)</i>	<i>Number on Register (3)</i>	<i>Number of</i>			<i>M/c line No. (7)</i>
			<i>Inspections (4)</i>	<i>Written Notices (5)</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted (6)</i>	
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	22	16	—	—	1
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	81	54	3	—	2
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		103	70	3	—	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
(a) insufficient		-	-	-	-	-	
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	3	5	-	3	-	10
(c) not separate for sexes	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
TOTAL	60	3	5	-	3	-	60

Number on Outworkers Lists : 7.

SECTION D

(1) Housing

Number of inhabited houses in Urban District 31st December, 1957....	....	....	....	....	8,318
Density of houses (number of houses per acre)	....				2.6
Number of houses (new) erected during 1957	....				157
By Local Authority	....		152		
Houses acquired from Cheshire County Council—Penn Lane Estate	....		60		
By other bodies or persons	....		5		
Number of houses owned by Local Authority					
		permanent	2,009		
		prefab	80		
		General Fund	10		
					2,099

Slum Clearance Programme—Housing Act, 1955:

Considerable progress has been made with the re-housing of families and demolition of properties included in the Council's 5-year programme of Unfit Houses.

Eighty-five families, comprising 240 persons have been rehoused during the year. Twenty houses have been demolished.

During the year 1957 Orders have been made in respect of 118 Unfit Houses and have been confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The houses have been dealt with in the following manner:—

(i)	By Compulsory Purchase Order	....	....	43
(ii)	By Clearance Orders	....	....	71
(iii)	Individual Unfit Houses	....	....	4

(2) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR

The number of Canal Boats passing through the Urban District of Runcorn has greatly diminished during the year 1957 and those which have been met from time to time were actually narrow boats making weekly visits—the same boats being met each time. In consequence fewer inspections of individual boats have been recorded.

I have to report the inspection of 67 Canal Boats, all of which were well kept and which, with the exception of the undermentioned contraventions were found to be in good condition :—

Certificate of Registration ....	....	....	9
Painting of Registered Number ....	....	....	1
Inadequate ventilation ....	....	....	1
Leaking Top of Cabin ....	....	....	1
Defective woodwork Cabin and Food Store			1
Defective range ....	....	....	2
Leaking Cabin Side....	1
Overcrowded	1

The above concerns 13 Canal Boats	Total	17
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Notices were served on the persons concerned, and where the contraventions have not already been rectified, the more recent ones are receiving attention.

The population of the Canal Boats referred to consisted of Men 40: Women 36: Children 42: The age group of the children is herewith indicated:—

Age:	Babies	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
No.:	1	4	6	2	3	1	1	—	2	7	5	4	6	42

There was no case of infection reported on a Canal Boat during the year.

There have been no new registrations or cancellations of Canal Boats of any description during 1957, and although there are still 335 Canal Boats on the Register, it may be assumed that many of these are not in actual commission.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) (i) Milk Supply

There are six dairy farms in the area of the Urban District all of which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, and 68 retailers of milk on the register of the Local Authority.

One dairy in the area is licensed for the Pasteurisation of milk in the High Temperature Short Time System.

(ii) Milk Testing

During the year under review 128 samples of milk were submitted for analytical report to the Public Health Laboratory at Birkenhead.

Twelve samples of milk delivered to the schools in the area were tested:—Of the remaining 116 samples, 1 failed the Methylene Blue test, suitable action was taken in this case and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

The following table indicated the Reports of the Analyst of samples during the year 1957:—

Sampling for Cleanliness and Efficiency of Heat Treatment

Class of Milk	No. of Samples	Appropriate Tests	No. of Samples	
			Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	58	Phosphates Methylene Blue ($\frac{1}{2}$ hour test)	58	—
Sterilised	27	Turbidity Test	27	—
Tuberculin tested	32	Phosphates	32	—
Pasteurised		Methylene Blue	32	—
Tuberculin tested	11	Methylene Blue	10	1

(b) Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The number of licences granted under the above Regulations was 100, viz:—

Tuberculin Tested	....	....	Retailers Licence	....	11
			Supplementary Licence	....	3
Pasteurised Milk	....	....	Retailers Licence	....	22
			Supplementary Licence	....	2
Sterilised Milk	....	....	Retailers Licence	....	62

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955. FOOD PREMISES IN AREA

Type	No in area	No registered under Sect 16 F & D Act, 1955	No of visits
Grocery and General Stores	94	—	90
Greengrocery	13	—	9
Butchers	24	16	27
Fish and Chips	16	16	24
Wet Fish	12	—	14
Cooked Meats	6	6	18
Cafes, Canteens, etc	19	—	31
Licensed Premises	40	—	31
Bakehouses	12	—	37
Sweets	32	—	21
Total	268	—	302

No special educational activity was undertaken such as Clean Food Guilds, or Lectures on Food Hygiene, but advice is given in the course of inspections.

(b) Ice-cream Testings

Twenty-five samples of ice-cream and twenty-two samples of ice-lollies were submitted to the Analyst for report, and the table herewith given indicates the substance of the same:—

Samples of ice-cream	....	....	Satisfactory	....	....	25
			Not Satisfactory	....	....	—
Samples of ice-lollies	....	....	Satisfactory	....	....	22
			Not Satisfactory	....	....	—

(c) Ice-cream

There are 94 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. No serious contraventions were found therein.

(d) Unsound Food

Under the “Unsound Food Provisions,” the undermentioned articles of food were found to be unfit for consumption on shop premises, and were condemned:—

Cheese	....	....	....	....	3 lbs.
Fish (tinned)	....	....	....	....	17 lbs.
Fruit	....	....	....	....	67 lbs.
Fruit (tinned)	....	....	....	....	129 lbs.
Meat (home killed)	....	....	....	....	238 lbs.
Meat (tinned)	....	....	....	....	354 lbs.
Vegetables (tinned)	....	....	....	....	7½ lbs.
Vegetables	....	....	....	....	160 lbs.
Milk (tinned)	....	....	....	....	14 pints

(2) (a) Slaughterhouse

The slaughtering of animals is carried out at the Council’s Slaughterhouse in Percival Lane, Runcorn, by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation, Limited. The Council’s Meat Inspectors attend whenever slaughtering is in operation to ensure that hygienic methods are operated at every stage of the dressing of carcasses.

(b) Slaughtering of Animals Act:

The provisions of the above Act are stringently enforced and all persons engaged in the slaughter of animals are licensed for that purpose. During the year five applications for the renewal of licenses were approved.

(c) Meat Regulations

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are observed satisfactorily; no legal proceedings on account of contravention have been necessary.

The transport of meat is carried out in a number of instances by individual butchers themselves, or otherwise is effected by means of other suitable transport.

In this direction the provisions of the Act are satisfactorily maintained.

(3) Meat Inspection

The inspection of all animals killed is carried out by fully qualified inspectors.

Daily visits are made to the Public Slaughterhouse and no meat or edible offal is allowed to pass out until the decision of the inspector has been given.

Three hundred and eighty-eight visits were made for the purpose of meat inspection during the year 1957 and 7,981 animals were dealt with during the year. Meat condemned is stained green prior to removal to processing plants for conversion into animal food and fertilisers.

(a) TABLE OF ANIMALS KILLED AND INSPECTED

Bulls	....	....	....	....	....	1
Bullocks	....	....	....	....	....	547
Cows	....	....	....	....	....	731
Heifers	....	....	....	....	....	567
Calves	....	....	....	....	....	17
Sheep and Lambs	....	....	....	....	....	5559
Pigs	....	....	....	....	....	559
TOTAL					....	<hr/>7981 <hr/>

(b) MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFALS CONDEMNED

The amount of meat and edible offals condemned was:—

For tuberculosis	....	....	....	7 tons 13 cwts. 3 qrs. 15 lbs.
For other causes	....	....	....	5 tons 16 cwts. 3 qrs. 14 lbs.
TOTAL:				13 tons 10 cwts. 3 qrs. 1 lb.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	<i>Cattle exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	1115	731	17	5559	559	Nil
Number inspected	1115	731	17	5559	559	Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	6	1	2	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	274	224	Nil	301	18	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis and cysti- cerci	24.5 %	31.4 %	5.8 %	5.4 %	3.2 %	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	4	15	Nil	—	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	42	175	Nil	—	10	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuber- culosis	4.1 %	25.9 %	—	—	1.7 %	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	—	—	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by re- frigeration	4	—	—	—	—	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

A. Dale, Chief Public Health Inspector.

(4) **Adulteration, etc.**—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act during the year, 1957:—

Samples obtained during the year ended 31st December 1957

<i>Name of Sample</i>	<i>Number obtained</i>	<i>Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality</i>
Baking Powder	1	
Beans with Tomato Sauce	1	
Butter	1	
Coffee & Chicory and Sugar	1	
Cod Liver Oil	1	
Cream	1	
Cheshire Cheese	1	
Fish Paste	2	
Flour, Plain	2	1
Gelatine	1	
Jam, Raspberry	1	
Jellies, Table, Raspberry	1	1
Lard	1	
Lemon Curd	1	
Margarine	2	
Meat, Luncheon	1	
Meat, Paste	1	
Milk, Cond., full cream unsweetened	1	
Milk	40	2
Mustard	1	
Orange, Drink, Whole	1	
Peas, Dried	1	
Pepper, White	1	
Salad Cream	1	
Salmon Spread	1	
Sauce	1	
Salt	1	
Soft Drink Tablets, Raspberry	1	
Tomato Ketchup	1	
Treacle	1	
Whiskey	3	
TOTAL	75	4

Particulars of Non-Standard Samples

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	Plain Flour	Containing an excess of creta praeparata	No action
2.	Milk	2.3% deficient in solids—not fat	No action
3.	Table Jellies Raspberry	Not conforming to the official setting test	Cautioned
4.	Milk	2.3% deficient in solids—not-fat....	No action

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to Measles (221).

(1) Research

When further research reveals more about the virus causing, e.g., Measles, a sound curative serum could be made when the disease could be controlled and eventually wiped out.

Combined Diphtheria-Whooping Cough Tetanus vaccine can now be given to infants at an early age (approx. 3 months), the results so far have been very good. This can be obtained free of charge from the patient's own Doctor; *I strongly recommend this.*

Further research is required into the "carrier" state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these, but preventive measures, e.g., Diphtheria Immunisation, Smallpox vaccination, inoculation against Typhoid Fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years where these diseases are likely to occur, or are prevalent; in addition proper hygiene and sanitation are an essential. (See remarks in Divisional Health Report, reference B.C.G.)

2) Diphtheria Immunisation

The *free scheme* is still available so that parents and guardians could have their children *properly* immunised against the deadly disease diphtheria.

All children one to fifteen years of age (*preferably* during the first year) should be properly immunised against Diphtheria by two injections; in addition a "booster" dose (one) is required in five years time. This can be obtained *free of cost* through the parents' or guardians' own Doctor in the surgery; also at Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries. Special Clinics are organised at schools as required. Applications should be made at the Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, Schools, or to the Public Health Department (Divisional).

Propaganda on the above has been *continuously* carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, &c., but still some children are found to have not been immunised.

Parents or Guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once.

"PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE."

(3) Prevention of Disease from Abroad

The Government, under the appropriate Acts, have a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this country from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious diseases have occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill, and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival, and he arranges for the necessary supervision.

(4) Vaccination against Smallpox

It is strongly recommended that all infants and others should be properly vaccinated; this can be carried out free of charge through the patient's own Doctor.

(5) Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Cases of this disease are notified immediately to the County and local Divisional Medical Officer of Health.

(6) Cancer

Under Section 76 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Sections 1, 2 and 6 and sub-sections (2) and (3) of Section 8 of the Cancer Act, 1939, were repealed and the responsibility for the provision of an adequate Cancer Service was placed on the Minister and Regional Hospital Boards by Part II of the National Health Service Act of 1946.

Facilities for cancer diagnosis and treatment are available in all major general hospitals in the area and the radiotherapeutic work of the region is centred at the Liverpool Radium Institute. Follow-up clinics are undertaken at the Chester Royal Infirmary.

The area of the Runcorn Rural District Council and the Runcorn Urban District Council are within the area of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

(7) Cancer Research

The Department is still co-operating in the survey being carried out under the auspices of Dr. Percy Stocks, lately Chief Medical Statistician, General Register Office, into recent cancer deaths on Merseyside. Investigations into cancer deaths, i.e., analytical research is being carried out in conjunction with the Department of Agricultural Chemistry (B.E.C.C.), Memorial Buildings, Deiniol Road, Bangor, Caernarvonshire.

During the year there were 43 deaths recorded from cancer as compared with 57 in 1956.

(8) **Details of Cancer Deaths Over The Past Five Years**

Year	Site	1-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75 and over	Rate per 1,000 population	Total all ages	
								M.	F.
1953	Stomach	—	—	4	4	—	1.39	5	3
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	—	4	2	—		5	1
	Other Sites	—	4	9	7	—		8	12
1954	Stomach	—	—	2	5	—	1.65	5	2
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	—	5	7	—		12	—
	Other Sites	—	1	3	10	8		7	15
1955	Stomach	—	—	5	2	4	2.07	6	5
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	1	5	2	3		11	—
	Other Sites	—	1	10	13	6		8	22
1956	Stomach	—	1	2	7	2	2.23	4	8
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	2	3	8	2		14	1
	Other Sites	—	—	12	12	6		17	13
1957	Stomach	—	1	1	4	—	1.67	2	4
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	2	10	3	—		13	2
	Other Sites	—	—	10	4	8		11	11

(9) **Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases. 1957**
(corrected Notifications)

Disease	Age Groups of Cases Notified									Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever	—	1	2	9	1	—	—	—	—	13
Whooping Cough	—	1	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	9
Measles	4	60	86	69	1	—	1	—	—	221
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	6	2	13
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	62	90	85	4	—	5	6	2	258

The most prevalent disease was Measles. Tuberculosis notifications are given in a separate section of the report.

During the year there was no unusual notification of infectious disease.

(10) TUBERCULOSIS

No person employed in the milk trade was found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary compulsorily to remove to hospital any person suffering from tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, the following precautions should be noted:—

Proper food (see remarks in Appendix A), in addition, early diagnosis (X-ray, etc.), proper treatment, thorough disinfection of homes when cases go to hospital separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors. All new cases are specially investigated by me and reported to me as Divisional Medical Officer of Health (as required to H.M. Inspector of Factories). Close liaison is kept with the Chest Physician. Follow-up of contacts and the patients by the Health Visitor is carried out very thoroughly and action is taken as required by myself and the Chest Physician (Divisional Health). B.C.G. vaccination is required for certain contacts, etc.

In my opinion, all milk, especially for children, should be properly heat-treated (e.g., pasteurised or sterilised), failing this, heat-treated in the home. Designated areas should be declared at an early date.

A reduction in cases of non-pulmonary (e.g., glands and joints) tuberculosis has occurred in both my Urban and Rural Districts since proper heat-treatment has become more available.

With proper veterinary control of cattle, proper housing conditions and food for the people; these will help to stamp out this terrible disease. Proper heat-treatment of milk not only kills tubercle bacillus, but other germs causing disease.

A thorough disinfection (steam, etc.) of the house, clothing, etc., with a thorough “spring clean” of the house when a case is admitted to a sanatorium or hospital, is essential. Isolation of contacts (especially children) is most essential, and every endeavour is made to do this. B.C.G. injections are given by the Chest Physician in suitable cases. Chalets and extra beds and bedding are supplied as and when required.

Medical Officers-in-charge of Industrial Hygiene, etc., Factory Inspectors, form a valuable liaison in preventing and ascertaining the cause of tuberculosis (e.g., dust, working conditions, disinfections, cleanliness, etc). The Public Health Act, 1936 Section 287, proves useful to the Medical Officer of Health (and sanitary inspectors) allowing power of entry to any premises for the general purpose of the Act, in conjunction with those concerned.

Ten Years' Table of Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis

(a) Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Year	Cases Notified			Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1948	12	4	16	4	2	6
1949	6	2	8	4	5	9
1950	7	9	16	8	0	8
1951	15	8	23	3	1	4
1952	6	2	8	5	0	5
1953	10	8	18	6	1	7
1954	4	1	5	3	0	3
1955	11	4	15	0	1	1
1956	3	1	4	3	1	4
1957	3	5	8	0	0	0
Totals	77	44	121	36	11	47

Ten Years' Table of Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis

(b) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Year	Cases Notified			Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1948	1	2	3	1	0	1
1949	8	4	12	0	2	2
1950	1	0	1	1	0	1
1951	0	0	0	0	0	0
1952	1	0	1	2	0	2
1953	1	0	1	0	0	0
1954	0	0	0	0	0	0
1955	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	0	0	0	0	0	0
1957	0	1	1	0	0	0
Totals	12	7	19	4	2	6

(11) Causes of Death at different Periods of Life during the year 1957

Cause of Death	AGE GROUP AND SEX														TOTALS ALL AGE GROUPS		
	Under 1 year		1 to 4 years		5 to 14 years		15 to 24 years		25 to 44 years		45 to 64 years		65 to 74 years				75 years and over
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Tuberculosis: Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis: Other forms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm: Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3	-	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm: Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	-	3	1	13	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm: Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm: Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	4	2	11	8	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leukaemia; Aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	12	8	4	16	19	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	2	14	6	29	8	-
Coronary Disease Angina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	2	2	-
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	16	12	5	3	23	19	-
Other Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	2	2	2	5	5	-
Other Circulatory Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	4	4	1	1	-
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	4	6	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	2	-
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy: Childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	3	3	5	14	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
All other Accidents	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	3	-
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ALL CAUSES	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	6	19	62	42	57	30	134	8	102

Appendix "A"

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

REPORT
FOR THE YEAR
1957

By the

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Presented to the
Runcorn Divisional Health Committee
15th April, 1958

MEMBERS OF THE RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. JACKSON

Deputy Chairman:

COUNCILLOR T. B. SHALLCROSS

Representatives of Local Health Authority

County Alderman G. ASTBURY,	Chairman, County Health Committee
„ Councillor A. WHITLEY,	Vice-Chairman, County Health Committee
Alderman W. GITTINS,	
County Councillor H. MANN	
„ „ A. E. MOORS	
„ „ R. E. PAYTON	
„ „ Miss M. J. PREECE	

Runcorn Rural District Council Representatives

Councillor D. L. Davies	Councillor T. L. Looker
„ Mrs K. I. Dewes	(died 27th October 1957)
„ Mrs T. A. Glover	Councillor Mrs E. Stansfield
„ J. Hunt	„ G. S. Wallworth
„ J. W. Kirkham	„ Mrs I. J. Wallis

Runcorn Urban District Council Representatives

Councillor H. Goodall	Councillor T. H. Leather
„ C. J. Helsby	„ T. J. Lloyd
„ S. Holt	„ J. G. Potts

Co-opted Members

Dr. E. R. CARTER, Local Medical Committee for the County Palatine of Chester
Dr. E. WARDLE, National Health Service, Local Dental Committee
Miss T. E. DUDLEY, Cheshire County Nursing Association
Councillor J. TILDSLEY, Runcorn Divisional Executive for Education
Councillor W. H. STUBBS, Chester & District Hospital Management Committee
Mrs. C. EVANS
Mrs E. A. ROYLE
Mr J. D. WHITLEY

Officers

Clerk to the Committee: Mr. T. J. Lewis

Divisional Medical Officer: E. N. Hillman Gray, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.,
F.R.S.H.

**CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1957**

INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to present this my Annual Report dealing with those portions of the Sections of Part III of the National Health Act, 1946, for which this Committee is responsible.

As in previous years the report is sub-divided into the various sections of the Act and gives details of the work carried out during the year.

The Welfare Centres in the Division were well attended, and at the Day Nursery there was an increase of one in the average daily attendance, as compared with the previous year.

The ambulance service operated smoothly during the year, and further reductions were made in the number of journeys and the mileage.

Every effort was again made to give publicity to the need for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued during the year and all the children who were registered for vaccination in March 1956 were given appointments for vaccination. Arrangements were also made during the year for the registration of children born in 1955 and 1956.

The scheme of B.C.G. Vaccination was continued during the year, and it is pleasing to note that 80% of parents consented to their children being vaccinated.

The demand on the domestic help service continued to increase, particularly on account of the number of aged persons requiring the services of a domestic help whose need for help continues indefinitely. In view of the demand on the Hospital Authorities for admission of chronic sick patients to hospital, this service is most valuable in helping to look after the old people in their homes for as long as is possible. During part of the year there was a shortage of domestic helps to attend cases, particularly in the Grappenhall area, but during the last few weeks the position improved.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Divisional Health Committee for their support and help to me on all occasions.

The co-operation and assistance of the County Medical Officer and his staff, the Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee, and also the staff in my Divisional Health Office, Matron, Day Nursery (Mrs. E. Jones, S.R.N.), Health Visitors; District Nurses; Midwives, local General Practitioners (Urban and Rural); Dr. L. Hughes, S.A.M.O. (Liverpool Regional Hospital Board); and the Ambulance Supervisor, has been *greatly appreciated* by me in the carrying out of my various duties since the Divisional Scheme came into being in 1948.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

*Divisional Health Office,
36 Halton Road, Runcorn.
March, 1958.*

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY

SECTION 22

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

There are seven Child Welfare Centres in the Division, three of which are held in County-owned premises (Runcorn, Frodsham and Stockton Heath) and four of which are held in premises rented by the County Council for the actual Sessions (Grappenhall, Helsby, Kingsley and Weston Point).

The Infant Welfare Centres are as follows:—

Frodsham	Welfare Centre, The Rock	Alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Grappenhall	Methodist Sunday School	Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Helsby	British Insulated Callenders' Cables Works Recreation Room	Alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Kingsley	Hurst Chapel	Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 2 p.m.
Runcorn	Welfare Centre Halton Road	Wednesdays 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Stockton Heath	Welfare Centre 65 Whitefield Road	Mondays 2 p.m.
Weston Point	Conservative Hall	First and Third Thursdays of month at 2 p.m.

In addition to Infant Welfare Clinics, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Dental and Minor Ailments Clinics are held at the Frodsham, Runcorn and Stockton Heath centres during the month, and at Runcorn, Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics are also held each Thursday at 10 a.m. A Toddlers Clinic on the first Thursday of the month, and Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy Clinics are held during the month. A Speech Therapy Clinic is now held each Thursday at the Stockton Heath Welfare Centre.

The Mobile Physiotherapy Clinic, arranged by the Chester and District Hospital Management Committee, is still held at the Welfare Centre, Runcorn. Only patients referred to the Clinic by a Specialist at a Hospital can attend for treatment at this Clinic.

The Committee inspected the Welfare Centres at Runcorn, Frodsham and Stockton Heath, and the Day Nursery, Runcorn, on the annual inspection of County owned and rented properties, and attention was given to alterations, repairs and replacements required.

Day Nursery

There is one Day Nursery in the Division, situated in Okell Street, Runcorn. The Matron and staff have again to be congratulated on their excellent work.

During the year the average daily attendance of the Nursery was 29, an increase of 1 on the previous year.

Attendances at the various clinics held at the Welfare Centres and for the Day Nursery are given in the following tables:

A. MOTHERS' CLINICS

				<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Ante-natal	....	....	....	175	622
Post-natal	....	....	....	—	—
Dental:—					
Pre-natal	....	....	....	22	55
Nursing mothers		....	....	60	216
Dentures supplied		....	....		44

B. YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS

(i) <i>Infant welfare</i>				<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
To 1 year	....	....	....	708	7313
1 to 2 years		....	....	—	1218
2 to 5 years		....	....	—	933
(ii) <i>Specialist</i>					
Ophthalmic (under 5)	....			26	78
Dental treatment (under 5)				71	85

B. (i) Welfare Centres

				<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>		
				<i>0—1</i>	<i>0—1</i>	<i>1—2</i>	<i>2—5</i>
Frodsham	....	....	....	60	697	175	144
Grappenhall	....	....	....	106	1374	191	78
Helsby	....	....	....	57	719	214	166
Kingsley	....	....	....	22	182	43	40
Runcorn	....	....	....	264	2553	389	415
Stockton Heath	....	....	....	166	1455	93	35
Weston Point	....	....	....	33	333	113	55
TOTALS	....	....	....	708	7313	1218	933

B. (ii) Ophthalmic Clinics

						<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Frodsham	....	....	....	....	....	6	28
Runcorn	....	....	....	....	....	6	27
Stockton Heath	....	....	....	....	....	12	33
Totals	....	....	....	....	....	24	88

(iii) Day Nursery, Runcorn

						<i>Average No. Attending</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Age 0—2 years	....	....	....	....	....	7	1735
2—5 years	....	....	....	....	....	22	5366

SALE OF BRANDED WELFARE FOODS—The sale of proprietary brands of Welfare Foods at Kingsley, Runcorn and Weston Point is carried out through my office. During the year, the total sales amounted to £788. 3s. 3d.

At Frodsham, Helsby, Grappenhall and Stockton Heath Clinics, the sale of Welfare Foods is carried out by Voluntary Societies.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS — M.O.F. — During the year no new distribution points were opened in the Division.

The following are details of the distribution points and commodities sold during the year.

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Commodities</i>				
	<i>N.D.Milk</i>	<i>Half Cream</i>	<i>Cod Liver Oil</i>	<i>A. & D. Capsules</i>	<i>Orange Juice</i>
Runcorn	9327	307	1861	969	15430
Alvanley	166	—	47	5	415
Appleton	961	—	84	48	963
Frodsham	2305	68	482	346	5251
Grappenhall	1009	—	233	205	3095
Halton	315	—	139	43	982
Helsby	998	—	256	171	2479
Kingsley	204	—	95	36	618
Manley	332	—	44	14	404
Moore	418	—	81	34	926
Norley	164	—	36	2	351
Preston Brook	313	—	121	22	534
Stockton Heath	989	—	295	171	2913
Sutton Weaver	52	—	43	—	206
Thelwall	22	—	35	11	105
Weston	452	—	114	25	789
Weston Point	1285	1	339	148	2404
Whitley	161	—	41	4	487
TOTAL ISSUES	19473	376	4346	2254	38352
Issues to Institutions	NIL	NIL	36	NIL	288
TOTALS FOR DIVISION	19473	376	4382	2254	38640

SECTION 23 — MIDWIFERY

Under this section the Committee are responsible for:—

- (i) Provision, where necessary, of accommodation for midwives and the maintenance, repair and alterations required for such premises.
- (ii) Provision of transport for midwives where necessary in cases of emergency.

Apart from the Midwives residing in No. 10 Stanley Villas No. 30 Heath Road Crescent, Runcorn, and No. 10 Cedar Avenue, Stockton Heath, all other County Midwives in the Division reside in property under arrangements made by themselves, and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

During the year the Committee inspected the County owned and rented midwives' property, and repairs requiring attention were dealt with.

Transport and medical requisites were provided as and when required.

The Midwives are doing good work in the homes where home confinements are required.

SECTION 24 — HEALTH VISITING

The Committee are also responsible for housing accommodation for Health Visitors, but all Health Visitors in the Division reside in property under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

The Health Visitors are to be congratulated on their good “all round” work in the homes, Welfare Centres, etc.

SECTION 25 — HOME NURSING

With the exception of the two district nurses in Runcorn and one District Nurse/Midwife at Budworth and Helsby who reside in properties under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility, the remainder now reside in County owned or rented property.

The Committee inspected all County owned or rented property in the Division, and action was taken regarding any alterations, repairs or renewals requiring attention.

The District Nurses provide good service to all in the homes, working in co-operation with the various General Practitioners.

SECTION 26 — VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Every effort has again been made during the year to bring to the notice of parents and guardians the necessity of having their children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough.

Publicity has been given to this subject by posters, periodic advertisements in the local Press, and the Health Visitors have discussed the question with mothers when making their home visits. Reminders have also been sent to parents from my office.

It is pleasing to note that there was an increase in the number of vaccinations carried out, and in the number of children immunised against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria during the year.

The figures set out in the following tables, compiled from record cards received from medical practitioners, show the number of vaccinations and immunisations carried out during the year. For comparison purposes, the figures for the previous year are also given.

Vaccination

				<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patients' Homes</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	....	....	1957	132	411	40	583
			1956	82	350	47	436
Re-vaccination		....	1957	—	108	11	119
			1956	2	67	3	72

Immunisation — Primary

			<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patients' Homes</i>	<i>School Clinic</i>	<i>Total</i>
Diphtheria	....	....	1957	8	12	—	20
			1956	4	56	3	117
Whooping Cough	....	....	1957	1	2	—	3
			1956	—	1	—	2
Combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria			1957	242	585	19	846
			1956	209	478	65	752

Immunisation — Reinforcing Injections

Diphtheria	....	....	1957	34	40	—	74
			1956	13	86	1	361
Whooping Cough	....	....	1957	—	—	—	—
			1956	—	—	—	—
Combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria			1957	44	120	5	169
			1956	22	65	6	93

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued during the year, and all the 2,718 children registered for vaccination in March 1956 were given appointments for vaccination. 2,480 children were given two injections, and the remainder had either left the area or were unable to attend through illness, and arrangements will be made for the latter to be called to future clinics.

Arrangements were made during the year for parents of children born in 1955 and 1956 to register these children for vaccination, and 1,029 consent forms were received. Clinics will be held for the vaccination of these children early in the new year.

In November the Minister of Health offered vaccination against Poliomyelitis to all children under the age of 15 years, and to expectant mothers, also to General Medical Practitioners, ambulance staff and certain hospital staff and their families. This has been made possible by the commencement of production by a second manufacturer in England, and by importation of Salk vaccine from Canada and the United States.

SECTION 27 — AMBULANCE AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

The Ambulance Service has operated quite smoothly during the year, and it is interesting to note that further reductions were made in the number of journeys carried out, and the mileage covered. Although there was an increase of 215 in the number of patients conveyed to hospital, there was a reduction of 318 in the number of journeys made, and of 6,423 miles in the total mileage for the services during the year.

The main reason for these reductions is that the year under review was the first complete year that the ambulance service had operated with the full establishment of vehicles, with the result that fewer journeys were given to contractors, and more patients carried in our vehicles by the co-ordination of journeys.

During the year Bedford Ambulance 835 BMB was supplied as a replacement for the Morris Ambulance FLG 492, the latter vehicle to be kept at the Ambulance Station for use only in emergency or when other vehicles are off the road for repairs.

There were no resignations during the year, and Driver M. T. Newton was appointed to fill the extra vacancy in the establishment.

One driver received a bar to his 5 years' driving medal, and 10 drivers one year safe-driving diplomas for the National Safe Driving Competition and 11 drivers passed their First Aid Examination during the year.

The Committee inspected the Ambulance Station during the year, and recommended that the vehicle lift should be replaced.

Details of Journeys carried out Direct by Ambulance Station

	<i>Morris</i>	<i>Commer</i>	<i>Bedford Ambs.</i>			<i>Bedford Clinics</i>			<i>Totals</i>
	<i>FLG</i> <i>492</i>	<i>MTU</i> <i>731</i>	<i>PTU</i> <i>296</i>	<i>835</i> <i>BMB</i>	<i>XMB</i> <i>268</i>	<i>TLG</i> <i>538</i>	<i>TMA</i> <i>444</i>	<i>XMB</i> <i>258</i>	<i>for</i> <i>Stn.</i>
Emergencies	26	2	68	37	336	26	15	27	537
Maternity	5	—	25	28	163	10	11	16	258
Accidents	—	1	29	12	131	2	9	6	190
Ord.									
Removals	125	9	279	42	177	18	18	71	739
Sitting Cases	1338	230	1270	44	312	1839	1931	2197	9161
Infectious Diseases	1	2	8	—	1	—	2	1	15
Total Patients	1495	244	1679	163	1120	1895	1986	2318	10900
Total Journeys	430	98	670	118	800	756	770	707	4349
Service Journeys	5	2	9	6	8	49	46	53	178
Mileage	10924	2615	18884	2762	18924	27332	26147	24710	132298
Service Mileage	91	72	136	62	45	203	360	329	1298
Petrol: Galls	1045½	261½	1215	234	1390½	1189	1118	1012	7465½
Oil: Service	131	23	230	7	110	123	125½	132½	882
Average M.P.G.	10.5	10.3	15.6	12.1	13.6	23.1	23.7	24.7	17.9

Details of Journeys Carried Out by Contractors

	<i>Total No. Journeys</i>	<i>No. of Patients</i>	<i>No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys</i>	<i>Total Mileage</i>
Ambulances	98	110	98	1597
Cars	271	370	1	7322

Details of all journeys made during the year as compared with the previous twelve months are as follows:

	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Emergencies</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
Ambulance Journeys:				
1957	2214	4811	961	55706
1956	2078	4406	874	52442
Sitting Case Journeys:				
1957	2504	6569	123	85511
1956	2958	6759	227	95198
Total all Journeys:				
1957	4718	11380	1084	141217
1956	5036	11165	1101	147640
Increase:	—	215	—	—
Decrease:	318	—	17	6423

The majority of patients in the Division requiring transport attend hospitals in Chester, Liverpool and Warrington, and the average mileage per journey for the year was 29.9 compared with 29.3 for the previous year.

The arrangements between the County Council and the Warrington Corporation, whereby the latter supplied ambulances for the conveyance of non-infectious cases from Stockton Heath and the surrounding district, were continued during the year.

SECTION 28

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Tuberculosis

The Health Visitors were informed of all new cases and asked to visit and complete the environmental report sheet, and where the contacts of the patients had not attended the Chest Clinic for examination, they were advised to do so. Every effort has been made to persuade the contacts to attend for examination.

On receipt of the completed report sheets, these were carefully investigated by me, and where the housing conditions of the patients were such that it was advisable that they should be rehoused, the

question was taken up with the Housing Departments of the Urban and Rural District Councils, and I am very pleased to report that both Councils again gave their sympathetic consideration to the rehousing of these cases, and in a large number of cases they were able to rehouse the families. Where the housing accommodation was adequate the patients were strongly advised to occupy separate bedrooms, and in all cases advice was given on the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection. Advice was also given to patients on how to obtain extra nourishment and assistance.

In all cases, enquiries were made to see whether it was possible to find the cause of infection.

The chest physicians at the Runcorn and Warrington Chest Clinics tested the child contacts of cases, and during the year 22 B.C.G. Vaccinations were given in this connection.

When patients were admitted to Hospital, arrangements were made for a full disinfection of the premises to be carried out.

During the year a careful check was made with the Chest Physicians of all patients whose names appear on my Tuberculosis Register and after examination it was possible to remove the names of a few patients from such register.

The No. 3 Mass Radiography Unit visited the Runcorn, Frodsham and Helsby area of the Division during the year.

Details of cases during the period 1st January to 31st December 1957, are as follows:

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
(a) Total number of cases on register—					
1st January, 1957	169	127	21	25	342
31st December, 1957	172	136	20	25	353
(b) Removals from register, 1st January to 31st December, 1957—					
Died	1	1	—	—	2
Left district	1	6	1	—	8
Recovered	5	6	1	2	14
Lost sight of	2	1	1	—	4
	9	14	3	2	28
(c) Number of notifications received, 1st January to 31st December, 1957—					
New cases	9	15	2	2	28
Transfers	3	8	—	—	11
Restored to register	—	—	—	—	—
	12	23	2	2	39

B.C.G. Vaccination

During the year parents of children in the 13 years age group attending schools in the Division were given the opportunity of having them given B.C.G. Vaccination, and I am pleased to report that there was a very good response, approximately 80% agreeing to the vaccination of their children.

The following schools were visited during the period under review:

Balfour Road Secondary Modern School, Runcorn.
Holy Trinity C. of E. School, Runcorn.
Parish C. of E. School, Runcorn.
St. Edwards R.C. School, Runcorn.
Halton C. of E. School.
Helsby County Grammar Schools (Boys and Girls).
Helsby Secondary Modern School.
Frodsham Secondary Modern School.
Kingsley Secondary Modern School.
Stockton Heath Secondary Modern School.
Stockton Lodge Private School, Stockton Heath
Marlfield Private School, Grappenhall.
Belmont College, Gt. Budworth.
Great Budworth C. of E. School

Details of the number of forms issued, tests carried out and B.C.G. given during the year are as follows:

BEFORE VACCINATION

No. of consent forms issued	....	....	....	....	935
No. of children for whom consent received	....	....	....	....	716
No. Mantoux tested	....	....	....	....	691
No. positive to Mantoux Test	....	....	....	....	173
No. vaccinated with B.C.G.	....	....	....	....	507

AFTER B.C.G. VACCINATION

No. having follow-up Mantoux (8 weeks)	....	....	....	....	421
No. positive to follow-up Mantoux (8 weeks)	....	....	....	....	410
No. positive to follow-up Mantoux (12 months)	....	....	....	....	460
No. negative to follow-up Mantoux (12 months)	....	....	....	....	18

Arrangements were made with the No. 3 Mass Radiography Unit to visit schools in the Division to X-ray the children found to have a positive reaction to the Mantoux test. Mass X-ray was also extended to teachers and staff of the schools where a high Mantoux rate was found. No infectious lung cases were discovered.

Care of the Aged

The care and after-care of old people living on their own has continued to be a most difficult problem, but in conjunction with General Practitioners and Health Visitors, assistance has been given to have cases admitted to a suitable hospital or home for the aged, or where this has not been possible, the provision of a domestic help and a visit by the District Nurse.

Whenever there are relations and friends, contact is made with them, if required, so that they can be reminded of their responsibility in the care of the old people and more help could and should be given by relatives in many cases.

As previously mentioned, patients are encouraged to arrange for someone to live in whenever possible and practicable.

The "Over 60" Club in Runcorn, the "Darby and Joan" Club in Frodsham and the Old Persons' Clubs in Stockton Heath and Grapenhall do very good work in the care of old people, and their work could, with advantage, be copied elsewhere in the Division. In addition, Women's Institutes, Townswomen's Guilds and Church Organisations take an interest in old people's welfare, working in conjunction with ward and parish councils.

The Central Council of Social Service, Warrington, and the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Runcorn, have arranged for their voluntary assistants to visit old people living on their own in Runcorn and District and the Stockton Heath districts. They visit the old people at regular intervals and take books, periodicals, etc. and assist them in any way possible.

The volunteers visiting old people and/or disabled have carried out very good work with discretion.

Much valuable assistance has been given to the old people by these voluntary workers.

Loan of Nursing Equipment

Supplies of nursing equipment, apparatus, etc., are available for loan to patients from stocks supplied to district nurses, in accordance with the scale agreed to by the Cheshire County Council and my Committee. A reserve stock is also kept at my Divisional Office.

A patient borrowing equipment under the above heading is required to pay a deposit, which is refunded when the article is returned in good condition.

There has been a steady demand for this equipment during the year, and this service is much appreciated by those concerned.

Convalescent Home Treatment

The Committee has power to send persons in need of rest but not nursing care to convalescent homes. Only one application was received for such treatment during the year, and arrangements were made for two weeks' convalescent home treatment for the patient.

The patients are required to pay towards the cost of their stay in these homes, according to the scale laid down by the County Council. The full cost is usually beyond the means of most cases.

Handicapped Persons

A Register of Handicapped Persons is kept in my office and the patients are visited by the health visitors to ascertain what assistance can be given to these persons, working in conjunction with the various voluntary societies, etc.

Home Occupation

In a few cases where patients are suffering from prolonged disability, resultant upon injury or sickness, arrangements have been made, in conjunction with the chest physicians and/or the patient's medical practitioner, and the British Red Cross Society for the supply of materials and apparatus for home occupation.

The patients have found very great interest in the work and a new pleasure in life.

Health Visitors have given the greatest assistance to me in this important matter.

It is hoped to increase this service during 1958 for cases requiring occupational therapy in the home, via health visitors, etc., especially for tuberculous cases.

Health Education

This is best spread by personal contacts; the health visitors pay special attention to Health Education in their day-to-day work.

Copies of my pamphlet "Commonsense Preventive Measures Against Disease" have been widely distributed throughout the Division, and posters on health education matters have been forwarded to shops, etc., for display.

Pamphlets are also left at homes where there are cases of infectious disease, giving details of the precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of infection

SECTION 29 — DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The number of domestic helps employed at 31st December 1957 was 37.

The number of cases provided with domestic helps during the year increased from 162 to 169, an increase of 7. The total number of hours domestic helps were supplied to cases during the year was 31,644 compared with 26,570 in 1956, an increase of 5,074 hours.

The demand on this service greatly increased during the year, due to the number of aged persons requiring help, and in particular, to the fact that it was necessary to increase the number of hours help was supplied to certain cases of aged persons who had been receiving help for long periods, owing to their deterioration, but by this help it was possible to care for these old persons in their homes.

Most old people do not wish to enter hospital or Homes for the Aged, but to remain in their own homes as long as possible, and every effort is made, with the aid of this service and additional help from relatives and neighbours, visits by members of voluntary societies and, when necessary, visits by the District Nurse, to make this possible.

With the aid of the Domestic Help Service it has certainly been possible to look after quite a large number of patients, who, without this help, would have had to be admitted to a Hospital or Home.

The following table shows the types of case supplied with help during 1956 and 1957:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Confinement Cases</i>	<i>Tuberculosis Cases</i>	<i>Aged Persons</i>	<i>Cases of Other Illness</i>
1957	25	3	123	18
1956	22	5	106	29

At the 31st December 1957, there were 92 protracted cases remaining on the register, an increase of 21 on the 1956 total.

The service is not free to patients but subject to the County Council Scale of Assessment.

Where any hardship is claimed after the assessment, the case is referred to the Divisional Health Committee for their decision in the matter.

